

[23 February, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

Manipulation of Rail Accident Statistics

373. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has noted that one factor bedevilling the safety performance of the Railways has been the wide-spread manipulation of accident statistics;

(b) if so, the facts and figures on the basis of which the Railway Board has come to this conclusion and how far manipulation of accident statistics affected the safety performance; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to rectify the system and to bring about a reliable safety environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no manipulation of Railway accident statistics. Various types of accidents are reported to different levels depending on their seriousness. Yard derailments etc. are reported only upto the level of Divisions. Smaller accidents not having serious repercussions are reported only upto the level of Zonal Railways. Only 'Consequential Train Accidents' which include collisions, derailment, level crossing accidents and fire cases having serious repercussions are reported to Railway Board. Thus, it is a matter of reporting at different levels for different accidents depending on their seriousness.

Demand and supply of Oilzapper

374. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present demand and supply position of Oilzapper in the country;

- (b) what are the prospects of its exports;
- (c) whether any MoU has been signed with foreign countries/ companies; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Oilzapper is carrier based efficient crude oil and oily sludge degrading bacterial consortia. Oilzapper can be packed in poly bags and easily transported to the sites of refinery or accidental crude oil spill sites.

Indian Oil refineries are generating around 20,000 metric tonnes of oily sludge, per annum. To degrade 20,000 metric tonnes of oily sludge, 200 metric tonnes of Oilzapper is required. In addition, around 100 metric tonnes of Oilzapper will be required to clean-up contaminated sites due to oil spills. Hence, the total expected annual demand of Oilzapper is 300 metric tonnes for indigenous requirement.

At present, commercial production of Oilzapper has not started. The research laboratory is producing about 10 tonnes per annum for demonstration purpose.

(b) The export potential of Oilzapper is quite high. Malaysia, Singapore, China and Saudi Arabia have shown interest in the product.

(c) No MoU has been signed with foreign countries/ companies.

(d) Not applicable.

Amount for Women's Bio-Technology Parks in Chennai

375. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3759, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd December, 2000 and state:

(a) how much amount has been allotted for bio-technology park for women operating in Chennai during 2000-2001; and

(b) whether this amount would be increased in the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) The allocated amount of Rs. 250.00 lakhs was released during the year 2000-2001 for Biotechnology Park for Women in Chennai.

(b) No Sir, Government of India has released the total committed amount.